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ABSTRACT

This study of the attitudes and status of West Indian immigrants in the United States, based on interviews with 59 West Indian immigrants, 83 adolescent and young adult children of immigrants, 27 African Americans, 25 White Americans, and 6 coworkers of immigrants shows the changes that occur as immigrants confront the realities of U.S. life. West Indian immigrants find that their knowledge of English, their skills and contacts, and their optimistic assessment of U.S. race relations smooth their integration into the U.S. economic structure. Over time, however, the realities of U.S. race relations swamp their positive cultural values and undermine their openness to whites. The chapters are: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "Historical Legacies"; (3) "Racial and Ethnic Identity"; (4) "West Indians at Work"; (5) "Encountering American Race Relations"; (6) "Intergenerational Dynamics"; (7) "Segregated Neighborhoods and Schools"; (8) "Identities of the Second Generation"; and (9) "Immigrants and American Race Relations." An appendix discusses study methodology. (Contains 9 tables, 1 map, and 333 endnotes.) (SLD)

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